

# WESTMINSTER NEWS



Westminster Presbyterian Church • 1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403-2419 • 612.332.3421 • [www.eWestminster.org](http://www.eWestminster.org)

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## Community Forum on Tolerance and Civility

By Rev. Dean J. Seal, Artistic Director, *Spirit in the House*

When President Obama spoke at the memorial service for the victims of the mass shooting in Tucson, he called on the citizens of our nation to elevate our expectations for civil discourse and to speak with each other in ways that would heal, not wound. He emphasized that “a more civil and honest public discourse can help us face up to our challenges as a nation.”

On Thursday, February 24, Noon - 1:00PM, Representative Keith Ellison will offer his own message of tolerance, understanding, and civility at an interfaith forum to be held at Westminster. The title of his presentation is *The Generosity of Inclusion: Everybody Counts, Everybody Matters*. The event is sponsored by religious congregations and organizations in the area, including the MN Council of Churches, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, the Downtown Clergy Association, and Spirit in the House. Music precedes the event at 11:30AM, and a public reception with Ellison follows the presentation. The forum is free and open to all.

Keith Ellison represents Minnesota’s Fifth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A member of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, he is the first Muslim to be elected to the United States Congress. Before his election to national office, he served two terms in the Minnesota State Legislature, representing District 58B. In 1987, he moved from Detroit, Michigan, to Minnesota to attend the University of Minnesota Law School where he earned his law degree. His nonpartisan presentation will explore the importance of religious diversity, reconciliation, respect, and inclusion.

For further information on this event, contact Susan McKenna, 612.332.3421, or [smckenna@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:smckenna@wpc-mpls.org).



Keith Ellison

## Westminster Partners: Building Community Together

By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

There are as many ways for Westminster to be a “Telling Presence” as there are ministry areas and programs in the church. Sunday worship, student mission trips, volunteer activities with Habitat for Humanity, Nicollet Square and Paint-A-Thon, the Town Hall Forum, Global Partners and more, all are ways in which Westminster interacts with the wider community and the world. One very direct way for the church to be a telling presence is the development of relationships with Community Partners.

A Community Partner is an organization that receives grant money from Westminster’s Faith In Action budget for programs and, sometimes, operating expenses in a number of areas such as job training and education, housing, child care, and programs for seniors. Some of the organizations have been partners of Westminster for decades, the oldest being Westminster’s own Social Service Sewing group – still going strong after 100 years! Others have only been working with us for a short time such as the Minnesota African Women’s Association where Westminster Elder Melissa Nambangi serves as

Executive Director. (Melissa will be speaking at the Faith Nixon Symposium on Saturday, January 29.) Some of the other partners include the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, TRUST (formerly Cooperative Adult Ministries), Emerge Community Development and the Plymouth Christian Youth Center. Longtime Westminster partner, Loring Nicollet, merged recently with Project for Pride in Living.

Each December, grant applications are sent to the previous year’s grant recipients and to any new organizations requesting an application. Applicants are required to provide financial statements, identify the sources of other funding, and provide a detailed description of how the grant money is to be used. Evaluating the applications is the work of the Community Partner Evaluation Committee, led by Tom Fidler. The committee meets once a month beginning in January, concluding its work in March as part of the annual budget process. Many members of the committee have been serving for years, but

*Westminster Partners*, continues on pg. 8

## Social Service Does it Again!

By Lee Zopff Coordinator, Social Service Committee

During 2010, 24 active members of Social Service sewed, knitted, or crocheted a grand total of 657 items, including walker bags, baby quilts, toddler clothes, caps and mittens, lap robes, hot pads, new-born kimonos, and knit bandages for distribution to HCMC, Presbyterian Homes in Roseville, Minneapolis YWCA Day Care, Camp Ajawah, Nicollet Square, FEAST, Groveland Food Shelf and Overseas Missions.



Lee Zopff, Ethel Kay Livingston, Marge Serr, Sandra Berthene pack items for distribution.

We not only enjoy creating each item, we get notes like these in return: "Our transitional care folks get the walker bags as they adjust to using an assistive device. Our long term care residents can select a lap robe as a Bingo prize. You all do beautiful work and it is appreciated." Or "Dear Social Service Group at Westminster Pres. Thank you, thank you. Your beautiful quilts are a real gift."

Now, come join us and share the joy! We meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:00AM to Noon in the Social Service Room. We have projects, material, and sewing machines. If you want to sew or knit at home, we can provide what you need for pick-up. You also can help by donating colorful yarn, or knit fabric suitable for children's clothing. For info, call Lee Zopff, 612.371.9616.

## The Wounds of War

By Bebe Baldwin, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area Disability Concerns Taskforce

What is the role of the church in healing the emotional, physical, spiritual, and moral wounds of war? How can the church use its spiritual resources to address the needs of veterans and their families? Where can veterans and their families find the best sources of help? The Presbytery Disability Concerns Ministry is sponsoring a workshop to address these issues.

On **February 26, from 8:30AM to Noon**, Westminster will host "The Wounds of War: The Church as a Healing Community for Veterans and Their Families." The workshop will feature two exceptionally well-qualified speakers. The Reverend Vaughn Jefferson is a recently retired Air Force chaplain and a psychologist with a special interest in the needs of veterans. He will speak on the issues faced by returning veterans and their families. Amy Blumenshine is a social worker, a diaconal minister for the ELCA, and a co-author of *Welcome Them Home: Help Them Heal*. She will speak on the unique role the church can play in healing.

The church's ministry of pastoral care transcends political views. All who are interested in the healing ministry of the church are urged to attend. The workshop is designed for both clergy and lay persons.

Register by Feb. 20 at [disabilityconcerns@ptcaweb.org](mailto:disabilityconcerns@ptcaweb.org). Call Bebe Baldwin, 612.343.8388 for more info or to register if you don't have access to email. A \$10 donation is suggested at the door.

## 2011 Hunger Offering

By Doug Hedberg, Hunger Ministry Team

Westminster's annual Hunger Offering will be received on Sunday, January 30.

Although the economy is slowly gaining momentum as it recovers from the recent recession, the employment situation remains grim. The unemployment rate itself is very high, mired in the 9-10% range. But if you count the underemployed and discouraged workers who have quit searching for a job, a more broadly calculated unemployment rate would be much higher. Regardless of how you may calculate unemployment, the hunger-related agencies are feeling its effects in a dramatic way.

Food shelf visits have risen rapidly at the agencies we support. Emergency FoodShelf Network reports that use of Minnesota food shelves increased 49% in the past year alone! Division of Indian Work's food shelf, Horizons Unlimited, reported a 52% increase in people using the food shelf in the first six months of 2010. Groveland reports that visits to their food shelf are up significantly, while contributions have begun to fall. Although nearly half of food shelf recipients are employed, most are under severe economic stress and need to divert limited resources to medicine, rent, clothing, and other necessities. It is a sign of the times that large numbers of food shelf donors have had to become food shelf users.

We have the opportunity once again to help feed those in need through our 2011 Hunger Offering. Last year the Hunger Offering funds were allocated to various Westminster-sponsored local programs such as FEAST, Groveland Food Shelf, Loring/Nicollet Meals on Wheels and Open Arms; and other local and regional programs including Second Harvest Heartland, Emergency FoodShelf Network and Division of Indian Work. Globally we contributed to Compatible Technologies. The local programs especially rely on the generosity of our Hunger Offering, as well as volunteer involvement.

We ask that you prayerfully consider a generous gift to the Hunger Offering on January 30. And if you're interested in volunteering in a Westminster-sponsored program as mentioned above or joining the Hunger Ministry Team, please contact Rev. Doug Mitchell at the church office or at [dmitchell@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dmitchell@wpc-mpls.org).

## From Our Pastor

### Dear Friends,

I write this from Jerusalem, where our Westminster travel group has just arrived. We are ten days into our sojourn through the Holy Land. It has been a great trip so far.

I have now been to Israel and Palestine three times. Each visit confirms what I learned on my first trip: this is a complicated, complex place. Someone once said that if you come here for a week you leave thinking you could write a paper outlining the resolution of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. After a second trip you realize you might be able to write only a few paragraphs. By the third trip you realize that nothing you could suggest would work. That's about how I feel.

That does not mean I am without hope — after all, we follow Jesus, and we're in the business of hope. I see it in the hospitality extended us in both Israel and Palestine. I see it in those Israelis and Palestinians who are willing to do the hard work of building peace on the ground. I see it in the young people who have not yet learned their parents' perception of the impossibility of peace.

Last night we attended a performance of the Diyar Dance Theatre Troupe in Bethlehem. It's a group of young Palestinian Muslims and Christians who write and choreograph stories of hope in what many see as a hopeless situation. In their piece they danced with exuberance and energy — and then were suddenly stilled by circumstances — and then they danced again. Over and over. Their exuberance and joy were always close to the surface, repeatedly interrupted by — but never completely quashed by — violence and threats of violence.

In the end, that is the only spirit that will prevail in this troubled place — the spirit of possibility and imagination, the spirit that sees what is and wonders what might be. Our partner congregation, Christmas Church, embodies that spirit. After the Israeli invasion of Bethlehem in 2002, in which their church building was occupied by the Israeli army and used as a combat headquarters, they sent young people into the streets to collect shards of broken glass. Artists in the studio at Christmas Church then went to work, and continue to work through today, turning those broken pieces of glass into ornaments and other tiny works of art that glisten with life and hope.

Everywhere we went in Bethlehem we sensed the presence of Jesus. We left today, on January 18, which is Armenian Orthodox Christmas. Early this morning a group of us wandered into the Church of the Nativity on Manger Square. The Armenians were there, already celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace. Every lamp dangling from the centuries-old ceiling — and there are hundreds of them — was ablaze. I have never seen anything quite like it. Incense hung in the air as the priests swung their censers and sang chants. We watched in hushed silence as those brother and sister Christians welcomed the Christ child into the world.

In the wonder of that moment I thought of Westminster and our Christmas Eve worship. In the still darkness of that holy night a month ago we did what the Armenians were doing as the sun rose over Bethlehem this morning: witness the birth of hope, the dawn of a new day, the awakening of possibilities of which we can only dream.

This troubled place needs that hope, and it is our job to be part of the global community that does not give up on it.

Salaam and Shalom — and see you in church!



Timothy  
Hart-Andersen

## WESTMINSTER CLERGY & STAFF

### The Rev. Dr. Timothy Hart-Andersen

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Kathy Fisher, Executive Assistant

Mary Hess, Director of Legacy Giving

### ADULT ED. & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Rev. Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Kathy Fisher, Leadership Development Admin. Asst.

Claudia Kapitan, Adult Ed Admin. Assistant

Barbara Mauk, Librarian

### CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

The Rev. Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Associate Pastor

Mary Alette Davis, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Erin Swenson, Dir. High School and

College-Age Ministries

Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood

Barbara Prince, Administrative Assistant

### EVANGELISM & FELLOWSHIP

The Rev. Annika Lister Stroope, Associate Pastor

Melanie McCall, Coord. of Fellowship/Spec. Events

Claudia Kapitan, Evangelism Admin. Assistant

Dan Franklin, Fellowship Admin. Assistant

Kristin Kieft, Publications Coordinator

### FAITH IN ACTION

The Rev. Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

Dan Franklin, Coord. of Discipleship Ministries

### MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, Minister of Music and  
the Arts/Organist

Dr. Jere Lantz, Westminster Choir Director

Dr. Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director,

Westminster Gallery and Archive

Barbara Prince, Program Assistant,

Worship, Music and the Arts

Nancy Carter, Handbell Choir Director

Brad Ollmann, Early Childhood Music

Christopher Laumann, Youth Music Director

### PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. David Liddle, Interim Associate Pastor

Claudia Kapitan, Administrative Assistant

### ADMINISTRATION

Samuel G. Cooke, Director of Administration

Sandy Wilson, Office Manager

Jennifer Zenanko, Accountant

Mary Dolan; J D. Shaffer, Accounting Assistants

Debbie Anderson; Sarah Kantrud, Receptionists

Amy Riesenber, Wedding Coordinator

### FACILITIES

Neale Holleschau, Facilities Manager

Todd Bushy, Brian Coyoc, Christopher Glenn,

Richard Wilder, Facilities Staff

### EMERITA

The Rev. Elizabeth D. Heller, Assoc. Pastor Emerita

### WESTMINSTER CAMP AJAWAH

Dave Moore, Director

Emma Watson, Registrar

### WESTMINSTER COUNSELING CENTER

612.332.7743

The Rev. Dr. Margaret McCray, LMFT,

Executive Director

The Rev. Ross A. Aalgaard, MSW, LGSW

The Rev. Dr. Leta J. Herrington, LPC

The Rev. Mary Keen, LMFT

Lori Churchill, Administrative Assistant

### WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL FORUM

Susan McKenna, Director

### PARISH ASSOCIATES (Volunteer Clergy)

The Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins

The Rev. Margaret McCray

The Rev. Dean J. Seal

# WPC Happenings • • • WPC Happenings • • • WPC Happenings

## New Member Class Begins

The spring new member class series begins on **Sunday, January 23**. For more information about becoming a member of Westminster, contact Rev. Annika Lister Stroope, 612.332.3421 or [astroope@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:astroope@wpc-mpls.org).

## WOW

Men and women of all ages meet on Wednesdays in the Meisel Room for 9:00AM coffee, 9:30AM men's & women's Bible studies, and a program at 11:00AM. Come for part or all. On **Jan. 26** Nothandu Zulu, President of the Black Storytellers Alliance, *see article on pg. 8*; **Feb. 2** Annika Lister Stroope will discuss her studies in a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program **Feb. 9** Denise Dunbar-Perkins will discuss hospice care. For info on WOW programs, call Sharon Achor, 952.847.9117.

## Day on the Hill, Feb. 17

Join the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition's annual lobby day at the state Capitol. Each year hundreds of Minnesotans gather to speak with their legislators about issues of poverty, fair taxation, human rights, health care, children, and more. JRLC members from the Islamic, Jewish, Protestant Christian, and Catholic communities join their voices in sending a message to our elected officials that people of faith demand fair and

## Come to the Cabaret Sunday, Feb. 13 4:00pm, Great Hall

The senior high youth are busy writing and rehearsing skits and this year's show will be one to remember! Purchase tickets on Sundays, February 6 & 13 in the Heller Commons. Tickets can also be purchased at the door the day of the show. Tickets are \$7 with a family max. of \$25. We hope to see you at the show!!!

### ATTENTION SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS!

Don't miss these upcoming  
Cabaret rehearsals:  
Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6: 11:45-2:00  
February 5: 9:30-Noon  
February 12: 9:30-Noon

just policy that protects and benefits all people. Visit [jrllc.org](http://jrllc.org) for more info.

## Wills Seminar for Families

The Children, Youth, and Families Council will offer a Wills Seminar on **Saturday, March 19**. Watch the newsletter and emails for more info.

**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 11:30AM in the church's sanctuary, 1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota to receive the 2010 financial reports, review the 2011 church budgets, and to receive a report from the Ministerial Relations and Personnel Committee of Session.**

*By Order of the Session, Vincent A. Thomas, Clerk of Session*

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## Births & Adoptions

**ELEANOR ANNE GARDNER**  
 Birthdate: August 25, 2010  
 Family: Anne & Matt Gardner and Eve

Daily Phone Devotions Phone 612.332.7087 for the daily lectionary	
January 21	Ps. 27:1, 4-9
22	1 Cor. 1:10-18
23	Matt. 4:12-23
24	Eph. 5:6-14
25	Phil. 2:12-18
26	Luke 1:67-79
27	Mic. 6:1-8
28	Ps. 15
29	1 Cor. 1:18-31
30	Matt. 5:1-12
31	Ruth 1:1-18
February 1	Ruth 2:1-16
2	Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22
3	Isa. 58:1-9a (9b-12)
4	Ps. 112:1-9 (10)
5	1 Cor. 2:1-12 (13-16)
6	Matt. 5:13-20
7	Rom. 11:2-10
8	2 Cor. 4:1-12
9	Prov. 6:6-23
10	Deut. 30:15-20
11	Ps. 119:1-8
12	1 Cor. 3:1-9
13	Matt. 5:21-37

## Sunday Parking in the Orchestra Hall Ramp

The Orchestra Hall Parking Ramp is now fully-automated.

- Upon entering the ramp, take a ticket.
  - Before you leave the church each Sunday, pick up a Parking Voucher (at the Reception Desk, the 12th St. door, or the Tower door on 12th St. & Marquette).
  - When you leave the ramp, first insert your ticket, then insert the voucher into the kiosk slot. The voucher will not be returned.
- Please note: Vouchers are valid on Sundays, from 8:00am-2:30pm. You will need a new voucher each Sunday.

### Questions?

Please call the church office,  
612.332.3421

## IN MEMORY OF George Jones

died January 11, 2011

*I am the Resurrection and the Life*



# Upcoming Opportunities for Adult Education

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor



**Isaiah: A Prophet for All Seasons**  
**Wednesdays, January 26, February 2, 9**  
**Meisel Room, 6:30-8:00PM**

Dr. Fred Gaiser from Luther Seminary will take us deep into the riches of Isaiah for this three-week series. One of the most familiar of the biblical prophets, Isaiah gives us some of the most familiar

and powerful texts of the Older Testament. Scholars generally approach Isaiah in three sections coming from different time periods. Dr. Gaiser will highlight the focus of each of these sections.

**January 26 First Isaiah (Jerusalem, 8th Century BCE)** "How long, O Lord?" (6:11) The eighth century prophets spoke terrible words of judgment to God's people. Why? To what end? Is our time like theirs, and should be we afraid?

**February 2 Second Isaiah (Babylon, the time of exile)** "I am about to do a new thing." (43:19) Israel's hope and ours—a God who will renew and restore a devastated world. So,

## Fellowship Opportunities

By Melanie McCall, Fellowship Coordinator

**Sunday/Monday Connections, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 6:00pm**

A dinner gathering for women of all ages meets at the Woman's Club, 410 Oak Grove St. Our speaker is WPC member Valerie Honey. Send a check (\$25, payable to WPC), to the church office (Attn: Dan Franklin) by January 27. For more info, contact Connie Scott, 952.933.4285 or conniescottmtka@msn.com.

**MidWest Church Tour, Friday, February 11, 6:45pm**

MidWest is back at the church for February. Join us as Rodney Allen Schwartz gives us a "Special Rodney Tour" of the church, including some secret hiding places. He will also entertain us with WPC stories. Meet in the Great Hall at 6:45PM for dessert and fellowship; tour begins at 7:15. Register online on the calendar at ewestminster.org or call Dan Franklin in the church office. Questions? Call Sarah Hall, 952.928.9980 or Marcy Rinek, 952.929.6972.

**Dinner for Eight Does Brunch**

This is one of the friendliest ways to meet with WPC friends in a host's home. Each host prepares the entrée, and asks guests to bring a dish to share. The next gathering is a Saturday brunch on **Feb. 5, 10:30AM-12:30PM**. Sign up on Sunday, January 23 in the Heller Commons, on the online calendar or by contacting Co-chairs Kent Cassidy (612.220.3798; kecassidy@aol.com) or Debby Woodard (952.250.6655; dwoodard@scisoc.org); or Dan Franklin at the church. See you at brunch!

did the judgment not matter after all? And what will renewal look like?

**February 9 Third Isaiah (Jerusalem, after the exile)** "I will gather others to them." (56:8) How does a community reestablish itself after catastrophe? Is it a time for circling the wagons and cutting off from outside influences or a time to gather "the outcasts" and break down barriers?

**Movie of the Month, A Serious Man**  
**Sunday, January 30, 11:45AM, Meisel Room**

In preparation for our February study of Job with Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker (February 6, 13), the Coen brothers' movie, *A Serious Man*, introduces us to Larry Gopnik who, in spite of his efforts to be a good man, finds the structures of his life collapsing like the walls of Jericho. *A Serious Man* deals not only with Larry's uncanny string of bad luck, but also with his efforts to come to terms with this Job-like existence. A light lunch will be available. Suggested donation: \$10.

## Asian Fusion

By Melanie Ohnstad, Minister of Music and the Arts

**F**usion cuisine combines elements of various culinary traditions while not fitting specifically into any tradition. Westminster's 8:30 & 10:30AM communion services on February 6 will be a fusion experience combining music from the Asian Rim with our familiar communion liturgical elements. Guest musicians from the Minnesota Chinese Music Ensemble will introduce us to fascinating instruments and delicate new sounds. Westminster member, Mikyoung Park, will sing a solo from her native country, Korea. We will all sing together hymns and spiritual songs from Japan, Philippines and China.

Like orange juice not being just for breakfast anymore, global music has entered the United States liturgical mainstream bringing its unique rhythms and sounds into churches everywhere. Westminster's Global Choir draws from this repertoire every month. Our hymnal contains several international hymns underscoring the denomination's commitment to, and recognition of, the church universal. Yours, mine and ours fuse in a most profound way at the Lord's Table. Come, the feast is ready.

**WestConnection Cabaret & Coffee, Sunday, Feb. 13**

Cabaret is a fun and creative event, put on by the WPC high school group as a fundraiser. Good music, comedy, and there's always some fun to be poked at the ministers. Cabaret is simply not to be missed! We'll gather at Caribou on Nicollet Mall at 3:00PM for coffee, then attend Cabaret. No signup necessary. Questions? Contact Sonja Mortenson at sonjamort611@hotmail.com.

## High School Parent Coffee Chat

By Erin Swenson, Director,  
High School & College-Age Ministries

### Parent Coffee Chat

The spiritual formation of the youth at Westminster is of great importance. Youth ministry cannot succeed without parents who play a vital role in the faith journeys of their children. Parents' thoughts, ideas, and prayers are so important!

Last year we met and began talking about how as a community, we can encourage your children in their faith journey and be encouraging to you as parents. Please join us on **Wednesday, February 2, 5:45-6:45PM** in the Thompson room as we continue this conversation, reflect on the youth ministry program at Westminster, discuss how we can best equip you, and together, dream of the great ways our youth could encounter God in the upcoming years.

## Middle School Book Read

By Elsa Kendig, Middle School Sunday School Teacher/Leader

The much-anticipated Middle School book read draws nigh! In November a group of students selected *The Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness as our first book. This book is a white-knuckle journey for readers. It follows a boy and girl on the run from a town where all thoughts can be heard—and the passage into manhood embodies a horrible secret. We will meet on **Feb. 20 & 27** in the Youth room from Noon to 2:00PM to eat, chat and discuss this high intensity book!

Parents, please note date change from earlier communication; students, please bring \$5 for pizza. RSVP to Meghan at [mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org) if you would like to join the group. Join us for one or both sessions!!!



### Troop 100 has Six New Eagle Scouts

MengMo Vang, David Vang, Feng Thao, Michael Vue, Kung Meng Vue, Fue Her became Eagle Scouts on January 8, 2011.

*Photo provided by Dave Moore*

## Nursery Families Event

By Marie Kruskop, Coordinator, Early Childhood Ministries

Celebrate the Chinese New Year, the year of the rabbit, with other Westminster Nursery families at the Midtown Global Market, **Saturday, February 5, 5:00-7:00PM.**

The Midtown Global Market is an international-themed public market featuring fresh and prepared foods, restaurants, and a selection of arts and crafts from around the world. There is a children's play area as well as a commons area where we'll gather over dinner (on your own from any of the many options available) and spend some time with friends, old and new. Look for us in the commons area—we'll have balloons!

The Market is located in the former Sears building near Lake Street and Chicago Avenue in Minneapolis. Free parking is available with validation for up to three hours for Global Market customers at the Midtown Exchange Parking Ramp on 10th Avenue S just north of Lake Street. Just bring in your parking ticket and have it validated with any purchase (no minimum amount required).

RSVP to Marie by February 3, 763.535.8973 or [mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org) so we know who to look for at the Midtown Global Market on February 5!

## A Life Proposed; By God Disposed

By Barb Thomas, Women's Ministries

There's still time to sign up! Register now to attend the annual Faith Nixon Symposium: Women of Faith on **Saturday January 29, 10:00AM-1:30PM** when we welcome Westminster elder Melissa Nambangi as she explores *A Life Proposed, By God Disposed*. Melissa Nambangi is the Executive Director of the Minnesota African Women's Association (MAWA). MAWA promotes the health and wellbeing of African refugee and immigrant women and their families in the Twin Cities through research, education, advocacy, and programming. This event will be a great opportunity for men and women to learn more about Melissa's history, her faith journey, and the experiences of African immigrant women. The Symposium will include a brief performance by choral group African Harmony.

For over 30 years, the Faith Nixon Fund has sponsored these annual Forums, presenting issues of crucial interest to women, children, the church, and the community. Our lunch will feature an African inspired menu. Everyone is welcome! \$13 (includes lunch), or \$5 to attend the program only. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Sign up in the Heller Commons on Sunday, January 23 or contact Dan Franklin in the church office by Jan. 24, [dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org).

## Nicollet Square Opens Its Doors!

By Lorene Liddle, Chair, Nicollet Square Connections Committee

December 22, 2010 marked a final, long planned-for step at Nicollet Square: the first resident moved into a lovely, new studio apartment! Having come late to this project following my retirement, I felt privileged to be on site when the first residents moved in.

To prepare for this day, a committee of members from Plymouth Congregational Church and Westminster has been researching what new residents would need. They gathered household goods, and solicited donations to purchase consumable items. Church members were generous—thank you!

Monday, January 9, volunteers assembled the final pieces of furniture. I have been very impressed and energized by the excitement that has bubbled up from people in our churches. I believe it touches something deep within us to sympathize with a young person who does not enjoy the loving support and care of a family or even a place to call home.

As each young person arrives at their new home, Mike Schmid, property manager, welcomes them. It has been his job to give each resident a building tour, show them to their apartment, and present them with their keys. Each resident then visits the community room to choose sheets, blanket, towels, cookware, and dishes to

complete their first household. Some residents have had the classic “deer in the headlights” reaction, others have said, “Wow, really? Where did this come from?” Still others have verbalized as one young man did quietly to his caseworker, “This is overwhelming,” (in a positive way!).

As a volunteer, you may have the opportunity to hand the final item to each resident, look directly in his or her eyes and with all the love of God in your heart say “welcome home.” I did, and I surely meant it for all of us. Thank you!

Katie Miller, the Nicollet Square Program Coordinator reports “the new residents are all very excited to be there, love the space and all the amenities which will assist them in getting their lives turned around.” Katie will be assisted by two Transition Coaches. Several residents are already employed and others attend school.

A volunteer training will take place at Nicollet Square on **Thursday, February 10, Noon-1:30PM** at which time you can learn more about volunteer opportunities coming up and other ways in which you might become involved. The first need is for people to cover the front desk during lunch time, but there will be many more.

To register and learn more, contact Kristin Swedlund [kswedlund@plymouthfoundation.org](mailto:kswedlund@plymouthfoundation.org).

## Visiting our Palestinian Partners

By Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director, The Westminster Gallery and Archive

This edition of the *Westminster News* has been printed and put in the mail just as I am returning from a visit with our newest global partners at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine. I traveled with Tim Hart-Andersen, Kathy Michael, and 33 other Westminster members for a two-week tour of the Holy Land which included many of the traditional Biblical sites and four special days with Westminster’s new partners in Bethlehem. As I write this in advance of traveling, I can only imagine the conversations and fellowship that will take place. However, four trips to Matanzas, Cuba, have certainly provided me with an expectation for the potentially deep affection that develops among those of us who participate in these partnerships.

Christmas Lutheran Church has established a thriving arts community through the International Center of Bethlehem which includes an arts program and gallery. I will be busy making connections with artists and galleries, dancers, and filmmakers in preparation for a Palestinian Arts Festival that will be held at Westminster in May 2012.

I will also be searching for and contemplating a variety of art forms in order to acquire original art to add to the Westminster Collection. This search will include two themes. First, to find art that describes the current political and social reality for our Christian brothers and sisters as they endure war and segregation. And second, to discover art that bridges the differences and seeks the shared origin of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faiths. My desire is to find the juncture, the intersection of these religions as illustrated in art, so that we might better understand each other’s doctrines, theologies, and traditions.



Christmas Lutheran Church,  
Bethlehem

# RESPONDING IN DISCIPLESHIP



By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

**T**he earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it." Those words from Psalm 24, echoed in Psalm 104, "O Lord, how meaningful are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures," remind us that it is God who creates and sustains all life. We do not have the power to give life, but we do have the power to care for God's creation and even greater power to disrupt it.

Like many people, I am fascinated by all the technology available to us and, more often than not, thankful that I don't have the budget to indulge my interest. What I did not know, until reading a report from the non-partisan advocacy organization Dēmos titled "Tackling High-Tech Trash: the E-Waste Explosion and What We can Do About It" (by Elizabeth Grossman), was just how many gadgets of all sizes and descriptions are in the world.

Americans own 3 billion electronic products with a turnover rate of 400 million per year and less than 14% of those items are recycled. Grossman notes these sales volumes and turnover rates are creating the fastest growing waste stream in the world. In the United States alone, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that over 372 million electronic units weighing over 3.16 million tons entered the waste stream in 2007 and 2008. But it's not just the aggregate amount of all those discarded products that should concern us. In 2001, the EPA found that discarded electronics accounted for 70% of the heavy metals and 40% of the lead in U.S. landfills and the U.S. Geological Survey has calculated that more gold could be extracted from a metric

ton of used circuit boards than could be extracted from 17 million tons of gold ore. It is clear that, while recycling electronic products is difficult and costly, the benefits to the world we have been given by God are many.

The members of Westminster's Eco-Justice Committee are auditing different areas of the church (worship, outreach, facilities, etc.) as part of the church's effort to become certified as an Earth Care Congregation. Initial certification is not a given, but the Committee is confident that Westminster has done enough work in enough areas to make it possible for us to become one of the first large churches in the denomination to become certified. Currently, only 15 of 10,000 congregations in the PC(USA) are certified as Earth Care Congregations.

The Eco-Justice Committee will work with the Ministry Councils to expand existing efforts and develop new programming that will unify our response to God's call to till and keep the earth by providing information on ways members can act to reduce, reuse and recycle. We are fortunate to live in a place where state and local governments have enacted programs to deal with the disposal of e-waste and where local corporations have created drop-off centers for electronics, as well as other efforts designed to preserve and protect the natural world.

Please look for future articles and web postings from the Eco-Justice Committee and if you have ideas about ways Westminster and its members can be better stewards of the environment, please send them to me.

• Dan can be reached at 612.332.3421 or [dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org) •

## Special WOW Event: Nothando Zulu, Master Storyteller

By Melanie McCall, Fellowship Coordinator

Westminster on Wednesdays (WOW) is excited to invite the entire church to a special Wednesday morning event with master storyteller Nothando Zulu on **Wednesday, January 26**. Drawing upon her own rich heritage as a farm girl from Virginia, Ms. Zulu has been performing nationally for children and adults for over 20 years. Audiences are naturally drawn to and find relevance in the images she projects, as she recreates the colorful characters found in African and African-American folktales. In addition, Ms. Zulu's portrayals of African and African-American women actually utilize the emotions of the learner. Members of the audience cease to be mere spectators, and become instead empowered participants in a living presentation. Zulu weaves history, folklore and personal experience into stories that reflect the traditions of Africans and southern African-Americans. Nothando Zulu pulls from an extensive resource of colorful, funny characters whose antics and follies leave audiences pondering their own life's lessons. No need to sign up, just come and bring a friend. Questions? Call Sharon Achor at 952.847.9117.

**Westminster Partners,  
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new members are always welcome. At the first meeting in January, assignments are made for site visits to each applicant to evaluate how past money has been spent. At subsequent meetings are when the members of the committee report their findings and a vote is held to determine how much, if any, money should be awarded to each applicant. If you would like to participate in this important ministry area of the church, please contact Dan, 612.332.3421 or [dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org).